

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 13, 2006, claims 16, 17 and 19 were withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 were rejected under §103 as being obvious over Armentrout, U.S. Patent No. 2,950,1236, in view of Sievert, U.S. Patent No. 5,199,729 and Sippel, U.S. Patent No. 5,975,613. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 18 and 20 were rejected as obvious under §103 over Armentrout in view of Sievert and Sippel and further in view of Schrecongost, U.S. Patent No. 5,255,765. Claims 5 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 through 20 have been cancelled. New claims 21 – 37 have been proposed. Claim 21 is claim 5 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim. Claim 31 is claim 14 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its independent claim and intervening claims. The remaining newly proposed claims 22- 30 depend from claim 21 and claims 31 – 37 depend from claim 31. As independent claims 21 and 31 represent only a restatement of the allowable subject matter of former claims 5 and 14, it is submitted that these claims and their dependent claims 22 – 30 and 32 – 37 are also properly allowable..

A petition for extension of the third month is enclosed together with the requisite fee of \$1020.00.

As amended and for the reasons set forth above, applicant submits that claims 21 through 37 of the present application now stand in proper form for allowance and such favorable action is requested.

Date: September 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Commissioner for Patents

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